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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1912.

VOTE "NO."

The voters of Virginia will on Tuesday pass upon two proposed amendments to the Constitution, relating to the tenure of office of certain officers. The effect of the first of these proposed amendments would be to remove the constitutional restriction which limits city treasurers to two terms in office. The effect of the second amendment would be to remove the constitutional restriction which limits city commissioners of the revenue to one term when elected by the people. Both of these proposed amendments should be defeated, because:

1. Their passage would practically operate to give office for life to city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue.

2. City commissioners of the revenue ought to hold only one term when elected by the people, because in order to secure re-election to office they would under-assess politically influential citizens, so as to secure their political support. When appointed, the commissioner is removed from the temptation to make improper assessments; when appointed, he realizes that his best claim to reappointment is efficient and impartial discharge of his duties.

3. City treasurers ought to be limited to two terms, for when they realize that they have a limited period in which to handle the public finances, they will be removed from the temptation to misuse or misappropriate the public moneys, facing as they would the realization that they would have to account finally within a specified time.

4. The Constitution of Virginia specifically declares that no amendment proposed to it shall be submitted to the people for their ratification until the proposed amendment has been approved by two successive sessions of the General Assembly. The two proposed amendments relating to the tenure of city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue were passed upon by only one session of the General Assembly, and are unconstitutional and void. The Constitution is thus violated so as to try to prevent a handful of officeholders from going out of office when required to do so by the law of the land.

5. The officeholders' trust bulldozed the General Assembly of 1912 into submitting these proposed amendments; the unconstitutional submission of these amendments was a part of the program by which the officeholders of the State throttled legislation in the interest of the people and forced through legislation in the interest of officeholders.

6. The people settled this question in 1910, but the officeholders' trust says that the people cannot vote right until they vote the way the officeholders desire them to vote.

7. Both proposed amendments deny the Jeffersonian principle of rotation in office; both amendments deny equality of opportunity to the average man.

8. The submission of these proposed amendments embodies the Roosevelt idea that a Constitution is no more sacrosanct than water, and that a Constitution should be a political plaything.

9. The passage of these proposed changes will introduce a band of determined officeholders who could never be dislodged from office.

10. Both the proposed changes are designed to enrich a few men at the cost of great damage to the interests of the people.

11. The people have been outrageously misled and misinformed by the advocates of these amendments; certain newspapers have wilfully suppressed the truth as to the undeniability of these changes. Whoever asks the people to vote for these changes "because the people should rule" maliciously misleads the people, because the officeholders' trust, in attempting to secure the passage of these constitutional alterations, is striving to take away the people's right to say how long their public officers shall hold office.

12. The forces that proposed these amendments have sought to misuse the machinery of the Democratic party by invoking Democratic city and county chairmen to their aid.

13. As long as the officeholders are permitted to bulldoze the General Assembly in order to get their pet laws by, the people can never secure from the General Assembly better schools, better roads, better laws, lower taxes, fair opportunities, equal rights and more genuine progress.

Shall the people rule? If they shall, let them rule by rejecting these two constitutional amendments. The issue is the people vs. the officeholders' trust. A vote for these proposed changes is a vote for government of, by and for officeholders; a vote against

them is a vote for government of, by and for the people.

SOUTHERN FARM MORTGAGES.

A recent report from the Census Bureau shows that there has been a large increase in the number of farms mortgaged during the last census decade. In the Southern States the tendency to place mortgages on farm lands has been especially conspicuous. For the country as a whole the average amount of mortgage indebtedness per farm increased from \$1,224 in 1890 to \$1,715 in 1910. No figures are given to show the advance in the average amount of mortgage indebtedness in Southern farms, but in the South Atlantic States the proportion of farms mortgaged was 27 per cent greater in 1910 than in 1890. During the same period of ten years the number of mortgaged farms in the East South Central States also increased 49 per cent, and in the West South Central division 59 per cent.

The condition of affairs thus disclosed affords no cause for alarm, but rather of encouragement. It is evident that a larger amount of mortgage indebtedness has not been placed on Southern farms because of unfavorable agricultural crop conditions or crop failures. On the contrary, this increased mortgage indebtedness is undoubtedly due to agricultural progress and activity. It largely represents funds secured for the purpose of more intensively and economically farming old lands and for bringing vacant lands under cultivation. It is also indicative of unpaid judgments on land purchased, the erection of new farm buildings and the purchase of agricultural implements and live stock. The equity per farm because of higher land values is greater now than ten years ago, despite the fact that the average amount of mortgage indebtedness has increased. The only danger in the situation is the possibility of a sudden fall in the prices of agricultural products, for the reason that increasing land values are the result of capitalization of the earning powers of the farms, based on the prices of farm products. According to present indications, however, there is no probability of an early or unusual decline in the prices of agricultural commodities.

WHAT CAUSES DIVORCE.

Statistics gathered by a Chicago judge of the Court of Domestic Relations on the causes of marital troubles resulting in divorce or the breaking up of families by desertion are instructive, even though they may not accurately represent the case in other localities of the country. The figures have been drawn from personal observation by an impartial and trained thinker, and may be taken as a fair indication of domestic conditions in large cities.

Half of the cases submitted to him were the result either of the interference with husband and wife by a mother-in-law, or of secret diseases. Each of these contributed about one-quarter of the total. The interference of children in second marriages, and the contention due to hasty or early marriage, each caused some 15 per cent of the cases. The remaining 20 per cent is divided about equally according to the judge, between ungovernable temper and drugs. The last include alcohol.

It is interesting to note that the causes specified are practically those accepted by popular feeling as the most potent trouble producers. They divide almost equally into a group due to physical unfitness, and another due to faulty social relations. Proposals to prevent unions broken by disease and intemperance have been made. The requirement that intending mates get certificates of health would in most cases prevent this terrible consequence. It is largely the result of secrecy on the part of one, or ignorance on the part of the other. The comparatively small part played by drunkenness will surprise many. But it may be answered that drinking is a more potent cause for dissension and quarrels than for actual divorces. Among the poorer classes it causes untold misery without producing open disruption.

Remedies for the most subtle failures of marital happiness from the intervention of mothers-in-law or children by a previous union are hard to prescribe. These difficulties root in the primal jealousies and antagonisms of human life. Often added to the influence of instincts is the question of money. How the home shall be supported, and who shall live with whom for economy's sake, are ancient troubles. Nothing but a world full of more intelligent and gentle people who can control their tempers and find large stores of love charity will ever improve such conditions very much.

In all the Chicago judge's conclusions there is no discouraging inference. In fact, it is an encouraging one. Most marriages are not old human failures, but the slow progress of education can often and would to ends of peace and affection.

THE GRIFT IN THE FEE SYSTEM.

The fee system of compensating public officials is as much from those of Virginia. That the Times-Dispatch and other newspapers have not operated the inequities of this vicious system, which extorts from the people excessive compensation for public service that ought to be cheaply rendered is demonstrated by the experience of Alabama. The situation in the two sister States is identical in many, if not in all phases. In both, the system consists of paying public officials for each piece of work done by fees fixed by law instead of paying them definite salaries. Everywhere under the fee system the people are unnecessarily and extravagantly taxed, so that incumbents of offices which require only ordinary competency receive extraordinary compensation. The people of

Jefferson County have become so "intensely dissatisfied" with the fee system that they have caused a constitutional amendment to be proposed for popular action this year, the purpose of the change being to abolish the fee system in the county where the grossest abuses exist because of its size and importance. Jefferson corresponds to Henrico County and Richmond city together. It includes Birmingham, the largest city of the State. In their determined fight for the passage of the pending amendment, the people of Jefferson County thus indict the fee system.

As a result of the great volume of business in Jefferson County, the fees fixed by law make a number of the offices in Jefferson County "tremendously profitable."

The office of sheriff in Jefferson County is supposed to pay not above all expenses from \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year. He "probably receives ten times as much as any Governor of the State has ever received, and more than all of the seven judges of the State Supreme Court combined."

The clerk of the Criminal Court, the court which corresponds to our Hustings Court, is supposed to receive not about \$30,000.

The probate judge of Jefferson County is supposed to receive not from \$15,000 to \$20,000; and the income of several other county officials is almost equally as large.

The profits received by the fee officials of Jefferson are "excessive and indefensible." Now what is the ultimate purpose of the people of this great Alabama county in seeking to abolish the fee system? If it is destroyed, public officials will be paid salaries "commensurate with their duties and responsibilities" instead of receiving the tremendous incomes which are now received. Yet there is a larger end in view than the mere change in system of compensation, for the people of Jefferson propose to take the immense amount which they will save through the salary system and put it into the public treasury "to be used in building of roads, the education of our children and the maintenance of our worthy public institutions."

Are the people of Virginia to imitate the wise economy of Alabama? Shall we go on pouring out the public funds in vast and extravagant amounts for the enrichment of a few officeholders, or shall we devote that public money to public purposes, to better roads, to better schools, to other vital public needs? Let none be deceived by denial; in the aggregate, the fee officials of Virginia are just as unwarrantably and outrageously overpaid as the fee officials of Alabama. The people can solve the problem by electing men to the General Assembly next summer who are irrevocably committed to the destruction of the fee system in Virginia.

AUTUMN WALKING.

Automobiles may be all right for invalids and lame folks this time of year, but the sound in heart and limb scorn any less god-like form of travel than the long and steady swing of autumn walking. Even walking to work through the city streets is a pleasure now, and real tramps on the open road or down wooded paths bring treasures of health and beauty that cannot be bought in any market place in the world. The glory of walking is that it is a personal joy. The walker is independent of any equipment except strong lungs and a keen vision. He is not even trammelled by the notion of getting anywhere. To be on the way is enough, when the way is a tumult of color and a changing panorama of lovely pictures.

Out along the James River bluffs, where the water and the hills conspire to paint drowsy landscapes, even the most confirmed plodder in common-place affairs must find something to make him raise his eyes and breathe deep of the frosty air. As the road slips past his burdens, like those of old Bunyan's pilgrim, grow miraculously lighter. The fretful cares of money or ambition melt into their proper perspective, and just to live is an answer to weary questioning.

All that the walker needs is an open heart and forgetfulness. Stevenson puts the matter in a few wise sentences. He says: "And then you must be open to all impressions and let your thoughts take color from what you see. You should be as a pipe for any wind to play upon. There should be no cackle of voices at your elbow to jar on the meditative silence of the morning. And so long as a man is reasoning he cannot surrender himself to that fine intoxication that comes of much motion in the open air, that begins in a sort of daze and sluggishness of the brain, and ends in a peace that passes comprehension."

GOD'S WORD A LAMP AND A LIGHT.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."—Psalm CXIX, 105.

The Bible is put upon its trial in every age, and each generation must test it. Hence the child of God has always been able to say, "Thy word is tried to the uttermost, and Thy servant loveth it." The Bible cannot be for us what it was to those who have handed it down to us until we, too, shall have been nurtured by its doctrines and have had our characters formed upon its principles. In other words, we must pass from a state of authority to a stage of experience. In a measure we must all leave our parents' house and seek a spiritual shelter for ourselves. We must alter or rebuild, out of the same materials and after the One Great Model. We cannot be too thankful to God for those who have spoken His word to us and who have taught us to revere it and resort to it; yet the conditions and circumstances

of our probation naturally differ from theirs. Their systems of interpretation do not meet our requirements or cover the whole ground for us, carefully and reverently as we may study or esteem them. Therefore, we are thrown upon God for the supply of our wants, and so we come to the Bible with our own perplexities and problems, and with the conviction that there we will find the light and comfort we seek and need.

A widely diffused interest in the Bible is a characteristic feature of our own time. No writings, whether sacred or secular, were ever translated into so many languages and dialects. Many great divines and scholars are devoting their time and intellect to its history and its interpretation. There has never been a time of greater need for the champions of the Bible to devote their most faithful efforts to defend and sustain its teachings, because it has never been exposed to such ordeals of critical investigation as now.

It is truly painful to the devout Christian to note the tone and temper with which many of the critics deal with the Bible. But he may possess his soul in patience and still hold the view that has hitherto satisfied his own deepest needs. He welcomes whatever light men of learning may throw upon it, whether from monuments or from manuscripts. To all who have special capacities for such research he gives respectful hearing. His motto will be: Prove or try all things; hold fast to that which is true. Of this we may be sure, that however opinions may vary as to the structure and the sources of the sacred books, they will continue to the very end to do for those who come after, what they have done from the outset, namely, "to make them wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The words of our text aptly describe the true function of the Holy Scriptures for the Christian soul. It is through a devotional study of them we may obtain light, and no matter who we are, be made "wise unto salvation." Again, these words of our text remind us that the word of God was designed to be to us, in our journey through life, what a lantern is to a wayfarer who would pass in safety over a dangerous pathway during a dark night.

The illustration is simple enough, but not so the carrying out of the principle with which it deals. Each case must vary with the disposition of those who use the Bible. They who seek to know the truth, that they may walk in it, who would know the will of God that they may do it, shall never lack of light; they will both perceive and know what things they ought to do. On the other hand, those of us who do not strive by God's help to live up to the light which we have, those of us who know what we ought to do and do not do it, will not find the light of God's word. Let us but will to do God's will, and we shall never want for guidance in the way of duty.

How blessed the comfort, the exultation, the radiance of hope which these blessed writings of the Bible minister to those who are ready to receive them as the message of their Heavenly Father, and who seek evermore the teaching of His Holy Spirit as they read. And this light, too, shines brightest when the shadows fall thick about us, when bereavement, bodily suffering, loneliness of spiritual darkness come, as come they must. Then as we recall the blessed words, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," let us also say with the Psalmist the next verse: "I have sworn, and am steadfastly purposed to keep Thy righteous judgments."

The Bulgarian army seems to be the real white hope.

They are talking of increasing the police force in New York from 10,000 to 20,000. Maybe they need an extra man to keep watch on each of the present force.

Why say that the "Italian" voters have come out for Wilson? Just call them Americans and assume that they will vote like the majority of Americans.

It ought to be called Unhallow 'E'en if the remarks heard from staid householders after the boys had visited them are any indication.

The panic the Republicans talk about is in their own hearts.

The city tug must be a nice place to have committee meetings.

By annexing the northern territory Richmond will get 3,000 first-class citizens, and they will get the benefits of a first-class city. Is there any reason why both Barkises should not be willin'?

The recall of judicial decisions by emotionalism is the most dangerous form of tampering with the law.

The candidates have spoken for some months, but it will take only one day for the people to say their say.

After seeing Mantell's "Macbeth" we cannot help thinking what a fine play Shakespeare would have made out of the New York gunmen.

The next grave problem confronting the nation will be what to do with two living ex-Vice-Presidents.

If North Carolina's football team had as much beef as it has pluck, it would win the world's championship.

The proper use of aeroplanes in the Balkan war would be to give the war correspondents a chance to get some news.

THE GIRL WHO HEARD HIM TALK WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS "COMPANY" MANNERS.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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"I'll just have a little chat with my girl. Hello, Central, give me 999 on the red and don't be all day about it, please."



"Hurry up, Central, get busy. Remember there are only 365 days in the year and I'm in a hurry."



"Confound it, Central, wake up or go back to the tall grass. Of all the infernally slow telephone girls, you are the limit. Get busy; I have a dinner engagement week after next."



As a matter of fact, he had his number and his girl decided that if he was that rude to a telephone girl he was not the man for her.

V. P. I. Presidency

At last Virginia newspapers are waking up to the fact that J. L. Eggleston, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is a candidate for the presidency of Virginia Polytechnic to succeed Dr. P. B. Barringer, resigned. The subject is one that should be discussed by every newspaper in the State, whether it be opposed to Mr. Eggleston or not. The Blacksburg school is a State institution and every year costs taxpayers a goodly sum of money. Therefore every Virginian has a deep and vital interest in it. Dr. Barringer's administration to a large extent has been a failure, not in our judgment, because of any shortcomings traceable to it, but because of an everlasting dissatisfaction aroused when Dr. Barringer was elected and persisted in on all occasions. When his successor is chosen, he should be a man whom all Virginia can endorse, a representative of no clique or faction and an exponent of the highest and best thought in education. The Evening World has said several times that it believes Mr. Eggleston is not the man for the place. His active campaign for the presidency, precipitated almost before the fact of Dr. Barringer's forthcoming resignation was known, should alone make the board of trustees exceedingly doubtful as to his qualifications. The presidency should not be made the victim of a political contest or become the reward of a politician. It is not properly the object of any man's candidacy. It is a matter for careful consideration and conscientious decision. In many respects the presidency of a college is like the pastorate of a great church. It cannot be made the prize of a mad scramble or an agency for the promotion of an individual's ambition. In the church, the congregation and officers devote to the task hours of patient investigation, and their verdict is based on the character of the man, not on the number of votes he receives. So should it be with the trustees of V. P. I. Mr. Eggleston's candidacy should be ignored as a matter of fact. It should be regarded as a reflection upon the board's intelligence and the spirit of its purposes, and Mr. Eggleston should be placed upon precisely the same level as all other educators. If he is the best man whom the board can find, if he measures up in every way to the demands of the position, let him be chosen. The only standards should be those of character, equipment and ability. Educators of splendid attainments, qualified in every way for the presidency of V. P. I., are to be found, not only in Virginia, but in other States, and if the trustees exercise care, caution and good judgment, they will make no mistake. They have already made one. The political interests to actuate them, the troubles of V. P. I. will be increased rather than eliminated.—Roanoke Evening World.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—We are very much grieved to see that an attempt was made this week to injure the Mechanics' Savings Bank, of which John Mitchell is president, and nearly all of the directors, and are fully persuaded that they are substantial and reliable men. We are personally acquainted with the business ability of the president of the bank and there is no doubt in our minds whatever but that the bank is being run in a business-like and thorough manner. We just feel that we would like to say this to the public.

POLLARD & BAGBY.
 November 2, 1912.

The Duty of Turnbull Men.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—It has been said that Mr. Watson struck his match when he ran against Mr. Turnbull for Congress in the Fourth District. I believe he struck more than his match. How the bosses, let the Turnbull supporters turn out on the 5th and vote for Mr. Watson. This, I think, will help to make him feel better and perhaps do better, at the same time hoping the Turnbull supporters will remember there is another election coming in about two years. Hope they will not forget they know what.

Richmond.
 J. T. HARDY.

The Situation at the Farmville Normal.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—In your paper of to-day, under the caption "Farmville Board," you say the school has no quorum of the board. Permit me to say that the writer of this is mistaken. There are enough trustees now to constitute a

quorum, and a meeting can be held at any time that the necessity may require. As to the "disorganization" referred to by the writer of that article and the "uncertainty pervading the faculty and student body," I know nothing. I am a resident trustee of that school and live just across the street from the school, and am frequently in the presence of the scholars and teachers, and have never heard one of them allude to it. I think the school is getting on as well as it ever did, and I think the president has it as well organized as can be done. This much to correct what I think should be done.

Yours,
 J. M. CRUTE.
 Farmville.

Our William.
 So our William is in the Gov-nor's chair! Well, I alius said he'd yet land there, Or else some day be President. But I must say I'm well content.

Bill alius was a likely lad. But such queer notions as he had 'Bout 'reco'ning right o' others, And treating folks like friends and brothers.

And William's aim was alius high. If he shot at a bird it must be on the fly. And folks did say about the town That what he shot at he'd sure bring down.

Bill took aim at a senatorship. Through a hot campaign he qualified nary bit. And after 'lection day was done, By Gosh! 'Twas found our Bill had won.

And durin' his term he proved so square, That his friends all cried, "To the Gov-nor's chair!" That is where our Bill will sit. Tho' he puts on airs nary single bit.

Now Bill's pa and ma has long been in heaven. But I can't help a-wishin' that to them It might be given. To know how their 'Willie' 'd alius been on the square, And landed safe at last in the Gov-nor's chair.

ROBERTA PETTON.

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NUMBER 9

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